Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0033] Figure 1 shows a detail of a vehicle having a driver's seat. Driver's seat 1 is composed of a seat surface, a back rest 2 and a head restraint 3. A light transmitter 4 is situated in head restraint 3 which emits light downward in the direction of back rest 2 or the seat surface of driver's seat 1. An optical element 11 associated with light transmitter 4 aligns emitted light signals. Optical element 11 is shown schematically for illustrative purposes only, not to imply shape, location, etc., of the element.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0034] A plurality of light receivers 5, staggered by height, is situated in back rest 2. For the purpose of simplification, only three light receivers 5 are illustrated in Figure 1. Light receivers 5 are mounted on the surface of back rest 2. They are connected to an analyzing unit 7 via optical waveguides 6. Analyzing unit 7 contains photodiodes which convert light, received by light receivers 5 and relayed to analyzing unit 7 via optical waveguides 6, into electrical signals. The converted electrical signals are checked whether light having adequate light intensity does or does not arrive at the individual light receivers 5. If the light path to the lowest light receiver 5 is blocked while light receiver 5, situated directly above it, receives a light signal having sufficient light intensity, then the conclusion may be drawn that the light path between light transmitter 4 in head restraint 3 to the lowest light receiver 5 is blocked, while the light path to light receiver 5, situated directly above it, is open. From this information the conclusion may be drawn that the passenger is leaning heavily forward. The more light receivers 5 do not receive a light signal or do not receive an adequate light signal, the more is the passenger leaning against back rest 2. The body position or posture of the passenger may be detected in a simple and quite reliable manner using this information. Analyzing unit 7 is connected to airbag deployment unit 13. Airbag deployment unit 13 is shown schematically for illustrative purposes only, not to imply shape, location, etc., of the unit. Based on ~~this~~ the information about the body position, in particular about the body leaning in the direction of the steering wheel, the optimal deployment time or the optimal deployment speed of an air bag may be determined, thereby limiting the effects of an accident.

Please replace paragraph [0035.1] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0035.1] Referring to Fig. 7, in an embodiment, light receivers 5 are spaced closer together in lower area 12 of back rest 2 than in upper area 14 of the back rest. The spacing of light receivers 5 is shown schematically for illustrative purposes only, not to imply shapes, locations, etc., of the receivers.

Please replace paragraph [0037.1] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0037.1] Referring to Fig. 8, in an embodiment, plurality of light transmitters 4 are spaced closer together in lower area 12 of back rest 2 than in upper are 14 of the back rest. The spacing of light transmitters 4 is shown schematically for illustrative purposes only, not to imply shapes, locations, etc., of the transmitters.

Please replace paragraph [0037.2] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0037.2] Referring to Fig. 9, in an embodiment, light receiver 5 is situated in roof liner 15. Light receiver 5 and roof liner 15 are shown schematically for illustrative purposes only, not to imply shapes, locations, etc., of the light receiver and roof liner.

Please replace paragraph [0037.3] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0037.3] Referring to Fig. 10, in an embodiment, light transmitter 4 is situated in roof liner 15, with plurality of light receivers 5 situated in back rest 2. Light transmitter 4 and roof liner 15 are shown schematically for illustrative purposes only, not to imply shapes, locations, etc., of the light transmitter and roof liner.

Please replace paragraph [0038.1] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0038.1] Referring to Fig. 11, in an embodiment, an optical element in the form of an aperture 8b is assigned to light receiver 5. Aperture 8b is shown schematically for illustrative purposes only, not to imply the shape, location, etc., of the aperture.